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 @WIPPNews

WIPP UPDATE: May 15, 2014

WIPP event bioassay testing program comes to a close

Final bioassay results from the February 14 radiological event have been reported. The maximum lifetime exposure for the 22 WIPP employees who were exposed is less than 10 millirem, or about the same exposure a person would get from a chest x-ray. No adverse health consequences are expected as a result of this exposure.

Shortly after the February 14 event, all WIPP employees were offered bioassay testing, which determines the presence of radiological contamination in the human body through one or more methods of urine and fecal analysis, and whole body scanning. Of the 140 personnel who received bioassay testing, 118 showed no detectable levels of contamination. The remaining 22 were notified that no dose would be assigned because their exposure is below the 10 millirem level. The bioassay laboratory processes and results were independently reviewed and verified by experts from the Centers for Disease Control and the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center – Training Site, which is part of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Tennessee.

Community Meetings Scheduled

Today – The City of Carlsbad and DOE will co-host its weekly meeting featuring updates on WIPP recovery activities. The meeting is scheduled today at 5:30 p.m. Location: Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 101 N. Halagueno Street. Live streaming of the weekly meetings can be seen at <http://new.livestream.com/rvv/>.

May 20 – A WIPP Recovery update will be provided at the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County Annual Meeting. The update, which will be provided by a member of the NWP Communications team, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Location: Hobbs Country Club, 5001 W. Carlsbad Highway.